

FACILITY INSPECTION	The IACUC must inspect the research facility's animal facilities at least once every 6 months. [2.31]
Facilities	<p>Animal facilities which must be inspected include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• all sites (including remote sites) where animals are housed or used (including laboratories)• field study areas where animals are confined• housing areas• holding areas <p>NOTE: Animals may be held without being on a protocol but are subject to compliance with the AWA regulations and standards and IACUC inspection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• all animal study areas, including equipment, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ cages▶ restraint chairs▶ slings▶ monitoring devices <p>NOTE: It is strongly recommended that the IACUC inspect areas where animals are housed for less than 12 hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• food & bedding storage areas• cage cleaning areas• surgical suites and prep areas• drug storage areas, including investigators' labs and offices, if appropriate• loading docks and transport equipment, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ transport cages▶ vehicles• housing areas at another research facility, if the IACUC is responsible for the animals housed in those areas, such as in joint studies or leasing of housing areas <p>In addition to inspecting the facilities, the IACUC should conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an assessment of the condition of the animals• an assessment of the care of the animals• a review of management practices• an assessment of animal users and caretakers ability to recognize problems of animal health and behavior

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a review of the mechanism for animal users and caretakers to report animal health problems or concerns <p>Note: The IACUC should encourage employees to bring any questions, problems or concerns about the care or use of the animals to its attention.</p> <p>Animal facilities which do not need to be inspected are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas used exclusively for non-regulated animals • areas containing free-living wild animals in their natural habitat • housing areas at another research facility if the IACUC has delegated responsibility for the animals housed in those areas to the other research facility's IACUC. NOTE: The IACUC should document that it has delegated the facility inspection responsibility to the other research facility's IACUC. <p>NOTE: The IACUC may choose to inspect these areas.</p>
<p>Method</p>	<p>The IACUC is responsible for determining the best method for conducting the facility inspection. [2.31(c)(3)]</p> <p>The IACUC may: [2.31(c)(3)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct a full committee inspection • appoint a subcommittee of at least two members to conduct the inspection. NOTE: NO IACUC member wishing to participate in the inspection may be excluded. • invite an <i>ad hoc</i> consultant(s) to assist with the facility inspection <p>The IACUC may adopt the AAALAC International Program Assessment report as its semi-annual program review if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the report complies with Section 2.31(c) • at least 2 members of the IACUC participated in the evaluation • no IACUC member wishing to participate was excluded • the report was signed by a majority of IACUC members • the report included any minority views

Criteria

The inspection must be based on the AWA regulations and standards (title 9, chapter I, subchapter A - Animal Welfare). [2.31(c)(2)]

Additional resources which may be used include, but are not limited to:

- “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” published by the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (ILAR), 1996 Edition
- “Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching” published by the Federation of Animal Science Societies, 1999 Edition

The findings of the facility inspection must be included in a report to the Institutional Official. [2.31(c)(3)]
